

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

The Status of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An audio amplifier electrical circuit comprising:

a pre-amplified audio circuit having volume control inputs;

an audio amplifier connected to the pre-amplified audio source that outputs an amplified audio signal;

a power supervisory circuit that monitors ~~the~~ a power signal used to supply device power to ~~by~~ the audio amplifier; and

a volume control circuit that activates the volume control inputs when the supervisory circuit detects the power signal used to supply device power to ~~by~~ the audio amplifier is beyond a pre-determined limit.

2. (Original) The circuit of claim 1 wherein the pre-amplified audio circuit is a DAC which converts a digital audio signal to a pre-amplified audio signal.

3. (Original) The circuit of claim 1 wherein the volume control inputs are digital.

4. (Currently Amended) The circuit of claim 1 wherein the supervisory circuit detects whether a supply voltage supplying device power to the audio amplifier falls below a pre-determined limit.

5. (Currently Amended) An audio amplifier system for driving computer speakers connected to a bus port comprising:

a bus port connection connectable to a computer from the audio amplifier system having data and power ~~signals~~ inputs;

a DAC having volume control inputs and a bus interface which can be connected to a personal computer to receive a digital audio signal and output a corresponding analog audio signal;

an audio amplifier comprising an audio input connected to the analog audio signal from the DAC, an audio output that outputs an amplified audio signal for driving speakers and a power supply input, wherein the power supply input is different from the audio input and the audio output;

a power supervisory circuit that monitors ~~the a power~~ signal used to drive the power supply input of ~~by~~ the audio amplifier; and

a volume control circuit that activates the volume control inputs when the supervisory circuit detects the power signal used to drive the power supply input of ~~by~~ the audio amplifier is beyond a pre-determined limit.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein the power used by the system is supplied over the bus port connected to the computer.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5 wherein ~~the pre-amplified audio circuit is a DAC which converts a digital audio signal to a pre-amplified audio signal~~ the volume control inputs are user actuatable, and wherein the volume control circuit overrides a user actuation of the volume control inputs when the supervisory circuit detects the power signal used to drive the power supply input of the audio amplifier is beyond the pre-determined limit.

8. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein the volume control inputs are digital.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5 wherein the supervisory circuit detects whether a supply voltage supply corresponding to the power signal used to drive the power supply input of the audio amplifier falls below a pre-determined limit.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5 wherein the supervisory circuit detects whether a power supply voltage supplying power to the audio amplifier system falls below a pre-determined limit.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5 further comprising a resistor between the bus port power ~~signal~~ input and the power supply input of the audio amplifier to insure a voltage drop to the pre-determined limit when the audio amplifier draws current which approaches a limit specified by a bus port power signal specification.

12. (Currently Amended) An audio amplifier system for driving computer speakers connected to a USB port comprising:

a bus port connection connectable to a computer from the audio amplifier system having data and power ~~signals~~ inputs;

a USB DAC having volume control inputs and a USB interface which can be connected to a personal computer to receive a digital audio signal and output a corresponding analog audio signal;

an audio amplifier connected to the analog audio signal from the USB DAC that outputs an amplified audio signal for driving speakers;

a power supervisory circuit that monitors ~~the~~ a power signal provided by the power input of the bus port connection and used by to supply device power to the audio amplifier; and

a volume control circuit that activates the volume control inputs when the supervisory circuit detects the power signal provided by the power input of the bus port connection used by the audio amplifier is beyond a pre-determined limit.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the power used by the system is supplied over the bus port connected to the computer.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12 wherein ~~the pre-~~
~~amplified audio circuit is a DAC which converts a digital audio signal to a pre-~~
~~amplified audio signal~~ the volume control inputs are user actuatable, and wherein
the volume control circuit overrides a user actuation of the volume control
inputs when the supervisory circuit detects the power signal provided by the
power input of the bus port connection is beyond the pre-determined limit.

15. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the volume control inputs
are digital.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12 wherein the supervisory
circuit detects whether a supply voltage corresponding to the power signal
provided by the power input of the bus port connection ~~supply to the audio~~
~~amplifier~~ falls below a pre-determined limit.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12 wherein the supervisory
circuit detects whether a power supply voltage supplying power to the audio
amplifier system falls below a pre-determined limit.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12 further comprising a
resistor between the bus port power ~~signal~~ input and the audio amplifier to
insure a voltage drop to the pre-determined limit when the audio amplifier
draws current which approaches a limit specified by a USB power signal
specification.